

KENNEDYS REACH ACCORD WITH LOOK ON SERIALIZATION

Widow Says Magazine Will
'Remove or Modify' Parts
Regarding Personal Life

1,600 WORDS TAKEN OUT

Agreement by Mrs. Kennedy
Expected to Pave Way to
the Book's Publication

*Statements of Mrs. Kennedy
and Cowles are on Page 24.*

By JOHN CORRY

Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Look magazine resolved their dispute last night on the serialization of "The Death of a President."

In a statement, Mrs. Kennedy said Look "has agreed to remove or modify all those passages in the magazine version of 'The Death of a President' relating to the personal life" of herself and her children.

Look, in turn, said simply that Mrs. Kennedy had "withdrawn her objections" to the serialization.

William Attwood, the editor in chief of Cowles Communications, Inc., which publishes Look, said that Look had met Mrs. Kennedy's objections by excising 1,600 words from the four-part, 80,000-word serialization, which will begin in the issue on sale about Jan. 10.

Other Accords Needed

Mrs. Kennedy must still reach an agreement with Harper & Row, which wants to publish "The Death of a President" in April, and William Manchester, who wrote the book about the assassination of her husband.

It is expected that Mrs. Kennedy's agreement with Look will ease the way for the other two settlements.

Although she said she was

withdrawing her suit against the magazine, it was not known how, precisely, this would be done or what was in the new, written agreement between the magazine and Mrs. Kennedy.

Mrs. Kennedy said she had "been told there are historical inaccuracies and unfair references" in the book. Look, however, said the revisions "in no way affected the historical accuracy or completeness" of the work.

Tapes Supplied Material

The apparent contradiction, most persons close to the argument thought, was a reflection of Mrs. Kennedy's belief that "The Death of a President" drew an unflattering picture of President Johnson. These persons also said the book spoke of hostility that the Kennedy family felt toward him.

A public recitation of this, some advisers to Senator Robert F. Kennedy thought, would further strain the delicate political relationship between Mr. Kennedy and the President.

None of the excised material, spokesmen for Mrs. Kennedy said after the settlement was announced, dealt with Mr. Johnson.

They also said that all the disputed material had been supplied by Mrs. Kennedy, apparently in two lengthy, tape-recorded interviews she had given Mr. Manchester.

Much of the material Mrs.

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Kennedy objected to, however, has been reported at some length in the press.

It includes descriptions of Mrs. Kennedy's behavior in Parkland Hospital in Dallas where she is said to have "wrestled" with a nurse who denied her access to the room where her husband lay, her despair on hearing that the assassin was not a right-winger and a description of how a nurse, not Mrs. Kennedy, told the Kennedys' children that their father had died.

The discussion that led to the agreement with Look was held at 575 Madison Avenue in the

office of Simon H. Rifkind, Mrs. Kennedy's attorney. Mr. Rifkind, a former Federal judge, is the senior partner in the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

Besides Mr. Rifkin and Mr. Attwood, the participants in the discussion included Gardner Cowles, chairman of the board of Cowles Communications, Inc.; Richard N. Goodwin, who was Mrs. Kennedy's chief adviser on the book, and David W. Peck of the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell.

'A Sensible Package'

Mr. Peck, a former presiding justice of the New York Appellate Division, who was sometimes mentioned as a possible candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor, represented the magazine.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Rifkind said that he and Mr. Peck would meet to "discuss a sensible package for a settlement."

It was his first public acknowledgement that a settlement was even being discussed.

Throughout the afternoon, consequently, newspaper, television and reporters gathered, and by evening six television cameras and nine microphones had been placed on a table near Mr. Rifkind's office.

At 6:10 P.M. the double doors leading to a corridor outside the office were locked. Moments later a secretary came out and said:

"If there is a statement, it will be a joint statement from Mrs. Kennedy and Look."

At 7 P.M., it was learned, the settlement was being discussed over the telephone with Senator Kennedy, who was on vacation with his family in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Inside the office, seated in leather-bound chairs around an oval wooden table, the 11 participants in the negotiations sat and waited.

One recalled later that the green felt on the table, the red rugs on the floor and a scattering of Christmas cards gave the room something of a festive appearance.

The meeting, one participant said, was "all fairly friendly."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Kennedy's chief adviser on the manuscript, met with Mr. Attwood for a final editing.

However, it was not until the final meeting in Mr. Rifkind's office, a participant said, that "we settled the details about the advertising, promotion and foreign rights." He said that any material that Mrs. Kennedy found objectionable could not be

used in the advertising.

He also said that, under the settlement, Look was responsible for anything that appeared in the foreign serialization of "The Death of a President."

A spokesman for Mrs. Kennedy, in making the point that Look had modified or excised every passage that Mrs. Kennedy found objectionable, said that neither side had been adamant in its position.

Give and Take

"There was a lot of give and take over the discussion on the best way and the gentlest way to remove the material," he said.

Nonetheless, the final settlement was not announced until 10:30 P.M., more than four hours after it had been expected.

There was some speculation that the Kennedy family's desire to dissociate itself from the book might have delayed the announcement.

Mrs. Kennedy's statement said that neither she nor Senator Kennedy "has in any way approved or endorsed the material in the Look articles based

upon 'The Death of a President.'"

A spokesman for Mrs. Kennedy reiterated this later, insisting that the serialization "cannot possibly be called an authorized version."

"It's only a text in which the personal objections of Mrs. Kennedy have been removed," he said.

Mrs. Kennedy filed the suit last Friday, contending that the publication of "The Death of a President," in either serial or book form, would violate a memorandum that Mr. Manchester, the book's author, and Senator Kennedy signed on March 26, 1964.

The memorandum specified that the book would not be published before Nov. 22, 1968, five years after the assassination of President Kennedy, and that it must be approved by both Mrs. Kennedy and the Senator.

The approval, Mrs. Kennedy said in her suit, was never given.

Although the suit was based on breach of contract, Mrs. Kennedy was most disturbed by what she said was Mr. Manchester's "tasteless" use of her own personal recollections.

Mr. Manchester, who had been promised that no member of the Kennedy family would cooperate with any other author in an account of the assassination, got these personal recollections in two lengthy conversations with Mrs. Kennedy

in the spring of 1964.

One source close to the dispute said that Mrs. Kennedy had treated Mr. Manchester like a "confessor," and that she had "made no attempt at self-censorship" in the interviews.

Finished Last Year

Mr. Manchester finished his 300,000-word manuscript late last year. Subsequently, a number of advisers to Mrs. Kennedy and Senator Kennedy, most of them onetime New Frontiersmen, read and revised it.

Besides political ambitions, the controversy touches on substantial sums of money, old friendships and the public's right to know vs the right to personal privacy.

Look agreed to pay \$665,000 for the right to serialize "The Death of a President." The magazine has already recovered half of this by selling the European serialization rights. Harper & Row, which has been paid \$250,000 by the Book of the Month Club for the privilege of distributing the book, has been offered \$1-million by Dell Books for the paperback.

If the deletions are in the first installment, technical difficulties will arise if the pages involved are printed on a chromatic press. A chromatic press, which is used for photographic and color material, prints 12 pages at a time.

A letter press, however, prints a single page at a time. If the changes involve pages on the chromatic press, an entire section of 12 pages would have to be revised. If the changes are on the letter press, the technical difficulties would be minimal.

If Mrs. Kennedy had been upheld in her court appeal to stop Look from publishing the serialization, an executive of Look said, the magazine would

have been forced to cancel the issue on sale Jan. 10. The loss, he said, would have been from \$3-million to \$5-million.

Problems of Printing

There was some disagreement about the mechanical problems Look might now face in publishing the serialization.

A spokesman for Mrs. Kennedy said that, "as a result of the negotiations of the last 48 hours, changes have been made in every installment of the serialization."

However, a spokesman for Look said the first installment was now being printed in Chicago, and that he "assumed" it was not affected by the agreement.

From the beginning, the suit was one that no one really wanted. It was learned that the attorneys for Mrs. Kennedy, Look and Harper & Row, even before the suit was filed, told Justice Saul S. Streit of the State Supreme Court that there

was at least a possibility of a settlement out of court.

Moreover, all sides let it be known that they preferred a prolonged period between the time the suit was filed and the time a hearing was held.

When the suit was filed last Friday, consequently, Justice Streit chose Dec. 27 for a hearing. Usually, a shorter time elapses between the filing of the papers in such a suit and the hearing.

A friend of the Kennedys said the other day that "everybody in the Kennedy family was against a suit," but that the family thought there was no alternative.

Both Harper & Row and Look are known to have been surprised when Mrs. Kennedy did, in fact, begin legal action. Earlier, Harper & Row amplified a report in The New York Times yesterday that it would increase its first printing

of "The Death of a President" from 100,000 to 250,000 copies.

It said the size of the printing was still undecided, and that it could reach 250,000. Harper & Row said it would not see greater profits from this and would, in fact, turn over all the profit from anything after the first 100,000 copies to the Kennedy Library in Cambridge, Mass.

The publishing company also reaffirmed its pledge to accept "only a small return" from the first printing, and said that it would donate part of the profit from the first 100,000 copies to the Kennedy Library.

The book apparently has been set in type. Harper & Row had agreed to remove some of the passages that Mrs. Kennedy objected to before she brought suit.

A spokesman for Harper & Row said that Mr. Manchester was now correcting galley proofs of his book, and that all other proofs of the book were at Harper & Row. He also said that a complete set of the galley proofs had not yet been made.

The book, which will have a midnight blue jacket that suggests a night sky, has not yet been bound.

There were unconfirmed reports that the excised material from "The Death of a President" had found its way to Taiwan, where it would be published and then smuggled into the United States.

Copies of the 1,200-page typewritten text were circulated by Don Congdon of the Harold Matson Company, Mr. Manchester's agent, last spring when he sought to sell the magazine rights. Reportedly, 25 copies were made.

If a bootlegged version is

published in Taiwan, which has never signed an international copyright agreement, one of these copies could be the source.

However, one informed literary man, who declined to be identified, said that virtually anything could be passed off as the "one, true and original Manchester book."

He said that at least one supposedly accurate copy, or part of a copy, of the book that is now in New York is spurious.